

# The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, October 9. 1694.

Next Thursday being to be published that New Piece, intituled, *The Knowledge of the World*, &c. a brief View of it will no doubt be very welcome to all Ingenious Persons, more especially to the Younger Sort of what Rank or Quality soever; it containing the Art of Well Educating Youth through the Various Conditions of Life, by way of Letters to a Noble Lord.

These Letters were printed first at Paris, where they found such a general Reception, that they were afterwards Re-printed at Amsterdam, and are now done into English by an able Hand. The first Occasion of their Publication being very remarkable, we shall here recite it in the Author's own words, which are as follows, "A person bred up in the Sciences, by good Rules, accusom'd from his Youth to dive into the bottom of Things, and known by his Reputation in Foreign Countries, paid a Visit, not long since, to one of the chief Lords of the Court, who had always honour'd him with his Esteem, and who was over-joyed to see him return'd into France, whither important Affairs had recall'd him. After they had discoursed for some time, the Lord sent for his Son, and desir'd the Gentleman to examin him as to several Questions, and to tell him what he thought of the Young Lad. He did so, and soon found that the Youth was endued with good Inclinations; but that he wanted to be instructed in things much better digested than what he had learnt till that time. This he signified to his Father, and let him know withal, that it wastime to replenish the mind of his Son with more solid Knowledge, and chiefly with that of Philosophy, not that which teaches to dispute, and becomes unprofitable, by how much the more it erects it self into an Art of Teaching by Rules; but that same overflowing of acquired Wisdom, which extends the mind of a Young man, as it fills it; which enlightens the Natural Confusion of the Soul, and which, as a man waxes elder, teaches the Art of cultivating his own Ground; that he may be the more capable of those Employments to which he is design'd. This beginning engaged the Gentleman in a long Discourse upon the truest and most easie method to frame and compose the mind of a Young Person; with which the Lord was so well satisfied, that he desir'd him to put down in writing what he had told him, to the end he might make the greater benefit of his Instructions.

To this the Author gave his consent, and thought to have stop't there, not having any other design than to please the Lord; but hardly had finish'd it; but his Dissertation was seen by several persons of the Court; They who had heard talk of it, desir'd to read it, and they who read it were extremely well satisfied with it. Ladies also, whose Vertue was exalted above the Rank which they hold, spoke well of it; and the Author received compliments from all parts.

And because it is thought, that the most flattering commendation of an Author, is to solicit him to print his Works, they fail'd not to tell him, That it behov'd him to publish so necessary a Piece of Instruction. 'Twas in vain to resist, and therefore he must needs make 'em a promise. And because a subject so vast and so profitable, could not be handled in an Abridgment, without losing most of its Efficacy, and for that it was to be fear'd a large Volume would prove troublesome, the Au-

thor has divided his matter into several Letters, which he intends to set forth by one at a time every month. This (he says) shall contain the Art of Well Educating Youth, and forming their minds betimes, to the end they may be the better enabled to supply the Duties of their calling.

Now in regard this Design will be of a large extent, the Author says, he will take care that there be neither confusion nor verbolity in it, and says, he will avoid proposing himself for a model, it being ridiculous for a man to set himself for a pattern to others.

Now because the Author is willing that Youth should comprehend what he is going about to teach them, to the end it may stay by them, he makes use of comparisons, and endeavours above all things to render the matter profitable in the delivery, elevated in the Inferences, and short in the proportions of it, to the end, that while he is instructing he may not prove irksom. He further tells us (in his Preface to this most excellent Design) that if any thing escape him that is contrary to Charity and Decorum, he disowns it for the time to come, and shall always be ready to amend it.

In the First Letter, he treats of the Principles of Good Education, as being the Foundations upon which it ought to be establish'd. Those are the Lights of Universal Reason which serve to enlighten the mind, and fortifie the heart against prejudices, the Injustice, the Infidelity and Corruption of the Age. These are the first Notions of that perfect and uniform Understanding, which raises the Judgment above ordinary Precepts, and which hinders the Soul from being seduc'd by the Maxims and Arguments of the Time, which fixes in it the Knowledge of Religion, which teaches it true morality, and renders it proper for civil Society.

The Subject of the Second Letter will be the Choice which ought to be made of a good Governour, and what Qualities he ought to have; because it is as impossible to arrive at the Knowledge of Good, without a wise Director, as for a peice of Land to produce Corn without Tillage and Sowing. And that the Author may not enter here upon a particular of all the Subjects that are to be handled successively, he will give notice in the Letter of the present month of what he intends to Discourse the next.

After he hath given some wholesome and important Precepts upon Education, he will treat of all the Conditions of Life; and in every condition, will speak of every thing that concerns it. In the first place, of all that may be serviceable for Instruction; Secondly, of every thing that may bring it to perfection; And lastly, Of every thing that may have any relation to it. In the First, he will teach the Learner to know the Duties of a Condition; In the Second, the Qualities required in that condition; And by the Third, The Ties and Habitudes that are necessary for it. He begins with the Church, goes on with the Court, the Sword, the Gown, and ends with Trade.

He considers the Church according to the three different Classes that compose it; Benefices with charge of Souls; simple Benefices and Cloysters; that is to say, the Apostolick, Ecclesiastick, and Monkish Life.

He examines the Court, in the first place, in it self; by its Maxims, and by its Designs, and afterwards, of the Speculative and Practical Part; The proportions and the use of Policy, and the state of Affairs, and the good of Kingdoms in Foreign and Domestick Negotiations; Of the method of Treating with Foreign Ministers, and the Qualities requir'd in a good Negotiator. After which, he makes a particular Description of the State of Europe, of their Laws, Customs, Manners, Maxims, Interests and Politicks. In



In reference to War, he Treats of the Foundations and Rights of Universal Reason; of publick and respective Justice; That War is permitted by the Law of God; wherefore, how long since, and to what end: That it is necessary for the preservation of the publick Peace, and for the easing Kingdoms of their multitude. That it ought to be the Maturity of Policy, Experience and Judgment which decides a War: That Vigilance Activity and Exactness are requir'd to maintain it; and what ought to be the Method of concluding it. By what Principles all these Qualities are acquir'd, improv'd and brought to perfection; What Correspondence ought to be held with the Friends and Enemies of the State; How to begin a War, and how to get rid of it. And Lastly, Many other things both profitable and of great Importance to be known upon this Subject.

As to the publick Treasury, he unfolds what Sagacity and Knowledge it requires for the management of it: How money ought to be raised, and how to be used: What Vigilancy is requisite in respect of the publick Good; The Severity and Circumspection, in reference to misdemeanours; The Oeconomy and Precautions to be used in the Administration of the publick Treasury: The avoidance of being sway'd by Interest in whatever concerns the common good of the Prince and People, and the Discretion requisite for Employments that depend upon it.

After that, he enters into a particular Display of whatever concerns a Courtier, whether he serves a Prince in his Palace, or in his Armies: What Inclinations he ought to bring along with him to Court, who intends to prosper in it: What the Practice of a Courtier ought to be; where he takes care to explain the difference between Religion and Policy, which are frequently there confounded both together: What sort of Education a man ought to have to be there employ'd and satisfied: What choice of Friends a man ought to make there: What he ought to rely upon and hope for: What ignominious things Ignorance, Laziness and Perfidiousness are: As also what are the Duties, Obligations, maxims, Qualities, and Knowledge of the other conditions of Life; the particular consideration of which leads him farther, and encloses many things worthy the curiosity and instruction of every man. For example, what ought to be the Qualities Requisite in an Ambassador, in reference to the Courts whither he is sent: What a man of the Sword ought to do, whether he serves his Prince, or leads a private life: What ought to be the Vertues of a good Magistrate, either as an Officer of Justice, or a Politician. Lastly, The Nature, Extent, the Benefit and Designs of Trade, where every thing is authorized that concerns men of Business and Merchants.

The Author strives to render these Discourses as solid as may be, to set 'em above all Rational Objections; to the end a Young man may the better know what we are about to teach him, and that he may have a desire to know betimes what we owe many times, but imperfectly to Age and Experience.

Once reading these Little Peices is not sufficient to benefit by 'em: The manner requires Application; because it is not carried on in a Florid Style, which leaves almost no impression in the Mind, because it is not serious in any thing. He strives to render things which are Abstracted and serious, the most delightful that he can: But he withal doth give notice, That the Little Application which some things require, will be amply recompenc'd by the pleasure of knowing something more or better than they knew before.

Men ought not to suffer themselves to be perswaded of the benefit which they shall receive hereby, but as they shall perceive themselves mov'd by the Discoveries, or the Reasons that shall be alledg'd; or till the Reading of Five or Six Letters have fully convinc'd 'em of the Profit and importance of these Instructions. For then they will perfectly understand what Advantages are to be reaped from a better Education, than that which they have already had. The Father will be overjoy'd, to have procur'd it for his Son. The greatest difficulty is to find out Men that are capable of being Taught and Improv'd.

For that end it is, That we are desirous to publish the Knowledge that he hath acquir'd by Conversation with

all degrees of Men in the principal Courts of Europe. So that Reader we are of Opinion that 'tis one of the most useful Peices that has yet seen the Light; and being Compos'd (as the Author tells you) of his own long Experience, you will find it no less pleasant then profitable in the perusal.

## Advertisement.

### The Ready Money Adventurers

Desiring that it should be full, and now it will be drawn quite full, therefore there will be no Tickets delivered out after this 9th Instant; and the next day in the Evening the Receivers are to meet at the place of Drawing, to mix the Benefits and Blanks, where the Adventurers may see it done; and we shall begin to draw on Thursday morning, it being the 11th of this Instant October, 1694. It is to be drawn at the Musick-Room in Charles-street, Covent-Garden.

The Tickets may be had of Mr. Harrison, at the Hen and Chickens in Cheap-side, Mr. Clements at the Seven Stars in Newgate-street, Mr. Thrisicrofs without Ludgate, Mr. Hart at the Crown near Turnstile in Fiolborn, Mr. Prince over-against Red Lyon-Court in Drury-lane, Mr. Roberts at the Green Dragon near the New Exchange in the Strand, Mr. Hooton at the Golden Boy near Charing-Cross, Mr. Coleman over-against the Kings Brewhouse by the Hermitage near St. Catharines, Mr. Amson at the Ring near Salisbury-Court in Fleetstreet, Gold-smiths; At Mr. Lloyds Coffee-house in Lumbardestreet, Mr. Brand at the Rain-bow Coffee-house, the Corner of St. Martins-lane, Charing-Cross, Mr. Sanders at the Carlisle Coffee-house in Kings-street near Guild-hall, Mr. Dearkes at the Dial under St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet, and at his Shop in Westminster-hall.

### The Sale of Sterling Plate.

THE Books being come to Town from the Country, it will be certainly Drawn at the 15th Instant, and no Tickets are to be delivered out after the 12th. On the 13th the Tickets will be mixt before the Receivers and Adventurers, in order for the drawing on Monday morning, it being the 15th of this Instant October, 1694. Tickets may be had of Mr. Bowman at the Flower-de-luce, near the New Exchange in the Strand, Mr. Cole at the Anchor over-against St. Dunstan's-Church in Fleet-street, Mr. Foden at the Golden-Falcon near Fetter-lane-end in Holborn, Mr. Burningham at the Black-Raven in Newgate-street, Mr. Layfeild at the White-horse in Lumbardestreet, Mr. Barham at Ratcliff-Cross, Mr. de Cayne at Bishops-gate, Mr. Holloway at the Cup in Leaden-hall-street near Ald-gate, Mr. Sykamore at the Star on St. Margaret's-Hill in Southwark, Goldsmiths, Mr. Ward at the Mere-maid in Cheap-side, Mr. Millner in Popes-head-Alley near the Royal-Exchange, Mr. Brindley at the corner of Fetter-lane in Fleetstreet, Mr. Banes Merchant in the City of York, Mr. Smith next Bedford-gate in Charles-street Covent-Garden, where it is to be drawn.

### The Double Chance,

FOR 50000 l. at 20 s. per Ticket, having such Universal applause from the Advantages and Fairness of it (all the Tickets being to be Drawn) is expected to be fill'd before the time; if so, it shall be drawn as soon as fill'd. Tickets and Proposals may be had of Mr. Sweetapple, Mr. Horneby, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Williams, Mr. Layfield, Mr. Lloyd in Lumbardestreet, Mr. Blunt behind the Exchange, Capt. Passil, Mr. Harrison, in Cheap-side, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Haller, Mr. Adams in the Strand, Mr. Compton, by Clare-market, Mr. Shelly in Panton-street, and Mr. Green near Leicester-Fields, Mr. Coleman over-against the Kings Brewhouse by the Hermitage, near St. Katharines, Goldsmiths, Mr. Palmar, Merchant in Exeter, Mr. Masburn Mercer at Oxon, Mr. Dixon, next Sir Charles Costerels in St. Martins-lane, Mr. Smith in Covent-garden, and at his House, being the late Dwelling-House of Sir James Butler, on Richmond-Hill, in Surry. 'Tis design'd to be drawn in Freemans-Yard, in the City.